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WASHINGTON
NUCLEAR-TOON

A former U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union today urged a resumption of the deadlocked Geneva talks on medium-range nuclear missiles to seek an interim solution along the lines of the so-called "walk in the woods" formula devised last summer.

Both Moscow and Washington rejected the plan devised by U.S. negotiator Paul Nitze and his Soviet counterpart Yuli Kvitsinski during a walk in the woods near Geneva last July.

The two men reached a tentative compromise on President Reagan's zero option proposal that would have instead limited the intermediate nuclear forces of both superpowers. It has often been cited since as the most promising means of giving impetus to the stalled INF talks.

"Something like that is what we should look for," Malcolm Toon said in an interview on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Toon, who served as ambassador in Moscow in the Carter administration, urged more Soviet and U.S. flexibility in the Geneva talks and said the United States ought to be prepared to cut back its nuclear arsenal if necessary.

"We ought to have another walk in the woods," he said.

Congressman Thomas Downey, interviewed on the same program today after leaving Moscow, quoted Soviet marshal Sergei Akhromeev, first deputy chief of the Soviet general staff, as saying if such a proposal were offered it would be considered at the Geneva negotiations.

But the New York Democrat said he did not perceive this as any sort of special signal.

"There is still a pretty far distance between our positions," he added.

Toon also urged Washington and Moscow to resume "dialogue on an official level" which, he said, had been absent during the Reagan administration.

Such a dialogue was important because the real threat to peace was non-communication, misperception and misinterpretation by either side, he added.

Later, West German Green Party leader Petra Kelly said an interim agreement on medium-range nuclear missiles was highly unlikely and that she opposed such a position.

Kelly added she did not trust Reagan or Soviet leader Yuri Andropov and said her party favored unilateral disarmament because bilateral disarmament had never been successful.

Kelly, a Green party parliamentarian, harshly criticized Reagan, saying he was importing a second Cuban missile crisis into Europe, and said she believed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and its Soviet counterpart, the KGB, were infiltrating the anti-nuclear movement.

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